(ख) यदि हां, तो यह विधेयक कब तक लाए जाने की संभावना है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या निर्वाचन आयोग ने सरकार से लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की धारा 77 को निरसित करने की मांग की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इसके प्रति क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और सरकार इस मामले पर क्या निर्णय लेना चाहेगी और कब तक?

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमाकान्त डी. खलप): (क) से (घ) निर्वाचन आयोग ने लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 धारा 77(1) के अधीन स्पष्टीकरण-I को हटाए जाने और साथ ही निर्वाचन व्यय की अधिकतम सीमा का पुनरीक्षण करके उसे बढाए जाने का प्रस्ताव किया है। यह निर्वाचन सुधारों के संबंध में उन प्रस्तावों में से है, जिन पर सरकार राजनैतिक दलों के साथ चर्चा कर रही है, तथापि, निर्वाचन आयोग ने न तो लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 77 को निरसित करने की मांग की है और न ही सरकार इस पर विचार कर रही है।

Issuing of Photo Identity Cards

412. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the total voters of the country who have been issued photo identity cards till 31.1.1997;

(b) the details of issuing of photo identity cards State and Union Territory-wise as on above date;

(c) by when the entire country is likely to be covered under the issuing of photo identity cards for all eligible voters; and

(d) whether such cards were made use of in polling in the Punjab State Assembly elections in February, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) 48.98%.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(c) The Scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards is an on-going scheme as electoral rolls keep on changing due to continuous addition/ deletion of names from it. Moreover, no fresh deadline has, so far been fixed by the Election Commission of India.

(d) According to the information made available by the Election Commission of India, voters who had been issued identity cards were requested to carry these to the polling stations to facilitate their easy identification in Punjab State Assembly elections. Production of Photo Identity Cards, however, was not insisted upon as a pre-condition for issue of ballot paper and even those who did not bring Photo Identity Cards were allowed to vote.

Statement

Statement showing the percentage of electors issued with deffect free I-cards till 31.1.97.

Name of State/Union Territories	percentage
1. Andhra Pradesh	65.8
2. Arunachal Pradesh	64.65
3. Assam	0.55
4. Bihar	26.72
5. Goa	55.03
6. Gujarat	78.51
7. Haryana	83.52
8. Himachal Pradesh	65.36
9. Karnataka	62.53
10. Kerala	0.11
11. Madhya Pradesh	51.53
12. Maharashtra	79.02
13. Manipur	76.28
14. Meghalaya	49.08
15. Mizoram	Nil
16. Nagaland	Nil
17. Orissa	74.01
18. Punjab	71.38
19. Rajasthan	55.42
20. Sikkim	85.76
21. Tamil Nadu	Nil
22. Tripura	53.68
23. Uttar Pradesh	40.91
24. West Bengal	68.97
25. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	81.43
26. Chandigarh	59.53
27. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	52.91
28. Daman & Diu	58.99
29. National Capital Territory of Delhi	65.23
30. Lakshdweep	86.81
31. Pondicherry	87.48
All India	48.98

Note: The Scheme has not been extended to the State of J & K.